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GP/2832  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )

Henning Zschau )

Serial No. 09/831,223 )

Filed: July 19, 2001 )

Title: RELAY WITH COUPLING ELEMENT )

Group: 2832

Examiner: L.D. Donovan

#10/B  
DENIED  
5-17-02

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 1, 2002.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the Abstract as filed and substitute the attached Abstract therefor.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the attached substitute specification for that as filed. A marked up version thereof showing the changes is enclosed as Attachment I. No new matter has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel without prejudice Claims 1-20 and add the following new claims:

21. Relay with coupling element, comprising: at least one spring bracket, in which a drive is arranged which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the respective spring bracket, the contact spring being electrically contactable over respective connection contacts; characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay of the same kind over respective coupling devices of the spring brackets by means of a coupling element constructed as a separate component, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being arranged in the zone of the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry to the coupling element.

22. Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays are also electrically coupled with one another over the coupling element.

23. Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling of the coupling element is releasably coupled.